

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS and SPACE ADMINISTRATION

And

THE U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) have an interest in increasing the participation of Women-Owned Small Businesses (WOSB) in Federal procurement.

NASA and SBA (the parties) support Section 7106(a) of the Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act of 1994 (P.L. 103-355) (FASA), 15 U.S.C. 644(g) as amended, which established the Government-wide goal for participation by small business concerns owned and controlled by women at not less than 5 percent of the total value of all prime contract and subcontract awards for each fiscal year.

BACKGROUND:

On October 13, 1994, President Clinton signed FASA into law. This landmark legislation established the Government-wide goal for participation by small business concerns owned and controlled by women at not less than 5 percent of the total value of all prime contract and subcontract awards for each fiscal year.

FASA stated that WOSB are to participate in Federal procurement opportunities, and that WOSB should get part of the approximately \$200 billion in annual Federal procurements. FASA created a Government-wide responsibility to meet the 5 percent procurement goal for women, based on the total value of all Federal prime and subcontract awards in each fiscal year. FASA also challenged large Government prime contractors to form plans to increase subcontracting opportunities to WOSB's.

PURPOSE:

SBA and NASA agree to cooperate in this MOU to increase the participation of WOSB in prime and subcontracting opportunities at NASA. This partnership will maximize the use of NASA and SBA resources and provide greater program recognition for results achieved. NASA and SBA support achievement of NASA's FY 1999 Performance Plan which includes a performance goal to award 5 percent of the total dollar value of NASA prime and subcontracts to WOSB.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

NASA's Responsibilities in Support Of the MOU:

1. NASA will appoint a Women's Business Advocate. The advocate will serve as a direct liaison to the women-owned business community and will aggressively encourage Field Center procurement offices and program offices to consider WOSB for all procurement opportunities. The advocate will work to raise the visibility of women-owned business in day-to-day procurement activities and will closely monitor each NASA Field Center's contribution to the overall Agency goal negotiated by the SBA and NASA for WOSB's in prime contracting and subcontracting.
2. NASA subcontracts a higher percentage of its total contracting dollars to WOSB's than any other Federal agency and will continue to work with SBA to develop innovative procurement subcontracting practices to give greater subcontracting opportunities to WOSB.
3. NASA will continue to actively seek WOSB to participate in the NASA Mentor-Protégé Program to provide mentoring in "high-tech capabilities" and to help increase their participation in subcontracting opportunities.
4. NASA will continue to provide training opportunities, to include WOSB, through the "Training and Development of Small Businesses in Advanced Technologies (TADSBAT)" Program.
5. NASA's Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) will continue its awards program, which recognizes a "Woman-Owned Business of the Year".
6. NASA will issue a policy statement emphasizing the importance of achieving the 5 percent goal for WOSB to the Nation's economy and for equal economic opportunity.
7. NASA will plan a "Women Business Focus" at its East and West Coast Annual Conferences. NASA has committed to sponsoring at least 2 days a year to focus on marketplace opportunities, which include WOSB.
8. NASA will use SBA's PRO-Net database and its NASA's Acquisition Internet Service (NAIS) as a source for providing WOSB with NASA procurement opportunities.
9. NASA will work closely with SBA's regional Women's Business Centers throughout the country to provide information on procurement programs for WOSB.
10. NASA will request SBA's participation in NASA/OSDBU-sponsored marketplaces and other outreach activities, as appropriate.
11. NASA will continue to publish its edition of, "The Opportunity Quarterly," a newsletter from the OSDBU, focusing on Small Business (SB) issues, highlighting WOSB success stories, and encouraging mentoring and training of SB, including WOSB.

12. NASA will continue to actively pursue WOSB to highlight their capabilities at our Semi-Annual Science Forums and our Quarterly Aeronautics Small Disadvantaged Business (SDB) Forums for procurement opportunities at the NASA Field Centers.

13. NASA will support the Interagency Committee on Women's Business Enterprise and the National Women's Business Council in developing and promoting new initiatives, policies, programs, and plans designed to foster women's business enterprises.

14. NASA will promote subcontracting to WOSB through its Prime Contractor Roundtable, which was established to find innovative ways of subcontracting to small disadvantaged businesses.

SBA's Responsibilities In Support of the MOU:

1. SBA will provide NASA with a list, as requested, of 8(a) WOSB in support of streamlined procedures that eliminated SBA's approval of executed contracts under Section 8(a) of the Small Business Act. (15 U.S.C. 644, as amended.)

2. SBA will report regularly to the President and to the Cabinet about the progress of Federal agencies in fostering women's business enterprise in the Federal marketplace and in meeting the 5 percent goal required by FASA. In the report, SBA will include the status of efforts under this MOU and NASA's progress toward the WOSB goal.

3. SBA will offer formal Government and press recognition of this MOU. SBA will coordinate and distribute information announcing NASA's strategic steps to implement this MOU.

4. SBA will link its Internet web site to the NASA's OSDBU web site.

5. SBA will help NASA use PRO-Net to identify WOSB with products and services that fill NASA procurement needs.

6. SBA will schedule and facilitate annual performance reviews of this MOU with NASA at the end of each year. These reviews will assess the progress of SBA and NASA in completing their MOU responsibilities.

7. SBA will support training programs held by NASA for WOSB, as requested, subject to the availability of funds. Training programs for WOSB will respond to the needs of WOSB, and will, among other things, provide assistance and advice to WOSB on marketing strategies and on doing business with the Federal Government.

8. SBA will, as requested, subject to the availability of funds, provide personnel and resources at special NASA outreach events in order to educate WOSB about SBA programs, policies and initiatives regarding WOSB.

9. SBA will support and advise the Women-Owned Business Advocate Working Group, made up of representatives of OSDBUs from various procurement agencies. This Group will meet quarterly to provide a forum for issues pertaining to WOSB.

10. SBA will be a primary resource for NASA in continuing discussions on how to achieve the WOSB goal. The Program Manager for the WOSB Procurement Program will be the primary point of contact from the SBA.

11. SBA, through its Office of Women's Business Ownership, will establish and maintain a list of women-owned business associations and organizations for NASA's use, upon request, in supporting wide distribution of procurement information.

TERM:

This MOU will remain in effect for two years, and may be renewed by written agreement of SBA and NASA.

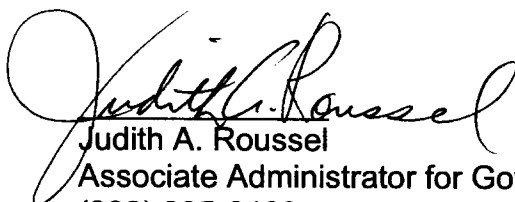
TERMINATION:

This MOU may be terminated by either party on 30 days written notice to the other party.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS:

The officials responsible for the MOU are:

SBA:



Judith A. Roussel

Associate Administrator for Government Contracting
(202) 205-6460

NASA:



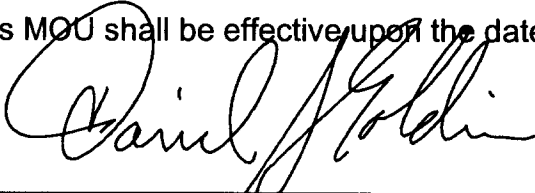
Ralph C. Thomas III

Associate Administrator for Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization
(202) 358-2088

All activities under or pursuant to this MOU are subject to the availability of appropriated funds, and no provision herein shall be interpreted to require obligation or payment of funds in violation of the Anti-Deficiency Act, 31 U.S.C. section 1341. This MOU is not a funding document, and does not represent the obligation or transfer of funds.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

This MOU shall be effective upon the date of the last signature below.



Daniel S. Goldin, Administrator
National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

MAR 19 1999

Date



Aida Alvarez, Administrator
U.S. Small Business Administration

MAR 2 - 1999

Date